

**Remarks Following Briefings at the
Central Intelligence Agency in
Langley, Virginia**

August 14, 2008

I want to thank the Director, Mike Hayden, and D.O. Steve Kappes for hosting me out here at the CIA. I get a chance to thank a lot of the folks who work out here for their service to the country.

It's really important for the people who work here to understand the significant—the significance of the contributions they're making to secure the homeland. The people here work long and hard hours. And they're smart, capable, and they deserve the Nation's thanks.

We also had a couple of briefings, one on the war on terror and the other on the situation in Georgia. Got a lot of folks, smart folks analyzing the situation on the ground, and of course, briefing us on different possibilities that could develop in the area and the region.

I sent Condi Rice, Secretary of State Rice, over there. She'll be coming back to brief me Saturday. I'm looking forward to hearing firsthand what she has seen, what she has heard. And my call, of course, is for the territorial integrity of Georgia to be respected and for the cease-fire agreement to be honored.

And we will be working this issue throughout the coming weeks, and people out here at the Agency have been incredibly helpful. And I want to thank you very much for your hospitality. Thank you, Michael. Appreciate you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Stephen R. Kappes, Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency.

Remarks on the Situation in Georgia

August 15, 2008

Good morning. I've just received an update from my national security team on the situation in Georgia. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is in Tbilisi. She's conferring with President Saakashvili and expressing America's wholehearted support for Georgia's democracy.

She will be traveling to Crawford, where I will meet her, and she will bring me up to date on what she has seen and what she heard in Georgia as well as in Paris—I mean, in France; she did not go to Paris. Secretary of Defense Gates will keep me briefed on the humanitarian assistance to the people of Georgia. We're working closely with our partners in Europe and other members of the G-7 to bring a resolution to this crisis.

The United States and our allies stand with the people of Georgia and their democratically elected Government. Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected. Moscow must honor its commitment to withdraw its invading forces from all Georgian territory.

Some Americans listening today may wonder why events taking place in a small country halfway around the world matter to the United States. In the years since it's gained independence after the Soviet Union's collapse, Georgia's become a courageous democracy. Its people are making the tough choices that are required of free societies. Since the Rose Revolution in 2003, the Georgian people have held free elections, opened up their economy, and built the foundations of a successful democracy.

Georgia has sent troops to Afghanistan and Iraq to help others achieve the liberty that they struggled so hard to attain. To further strengthen their democracy, Georgia has sought to join the free institutions of the West. The people of Georgia have cast their lot with the free world, and we will not cast them aside.

Georgia's emergence as a young democracy has been part of an inspiring and hopeful new chapter in Europe's history. Europe has moved beyond the world wars that killed millions of people and the cold war that divided its citizens between two superpowers. Every administration since the end of the cold war has worked with European partners to extend the reach of liberty and prosperity. And now, for the first time in memory, Europe is becoming a continent that is whole, free, and at peace.

Unfortunately, Russia has tended to view the expansion of freedom and democracy as a threat to its interests. The opposite is true. Free and prosperous societies on Russia's

borders will advance Russia's interests by serving as sources of stability and economic opportunity.

We hope Russia's leaders will recognize that a future of cooperation and peace will benefit all parties. The cold war is over. The days of satellite states and spheres of influence are behind us. A contentious relationship with Russia is not in America's interest, and a contentious relationship with America is not in Russia's interest.

With its actions in recent days, Russia has damaged its credibility and its relations with the nations of the free world. Bullying and intimidation are not acceptable ways to conduct foreign policy in the 21st century. Only Russia can decide whether it will now put itself back on the path of responsible nations or continue to pursue a policy that promises only confrontation and isolation. To begin to repair its relations with the United States and Europe and other nations and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must respect the freedom of its neighbors.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:13 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Continuation of United States Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

August 15, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008-24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Continuation of U.S. Drug Interdiction Assistance to the Government of Colombia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 1012 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2291-4), I hereby certify, with respect to Colombia, that (1) interdiction of aircraft reasonably suspected to be primarily engaged in illicit drug trafficking in that country's airspace is necessary be-

cause of the extraordinary threat posed by illicit drug trafficking to the national security of that country; and (2) that country has appropriate procedures in place to protect against innocent loss of life in the air and on the ground in connection with such interdiction, which shall at a minimum include effective means to identify and warn an aircraft before the use of force is directed against the aircraft.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register* and to notify the Congress of this determination.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 9

In the morning, at the Westin Beijing Chaoyang hotel in Beijing, China, the President had an intelligence briefing. He was then briefed by Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State James F. Jeffrey and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the situation in Georgia. Later, he traveled to the Chaoyang Park Olympic Beach Volleyball Venue, where he attended a U.S. men's and women's Olympic beach volleyball teams practice.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to the Fengtai Olympic Softball Field, where he attended a U.S. Olympic softball team practice.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the Westin hotel. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to the U.S. Ambassador's residence, where they attended a reception with chief executive officer sponsors of the 2008 U.S. summer Olympic team. They then returned to the Westin hotel.